(a) the amount spent so far on the four-laning of the Cuttack-Bhubaneswar section of the National Highway No. 5;

(b) the progress made in the construction work; and

(c) the target date fixed for the completion of the four-laning project?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) The amount spent is approximately Rs. 87.58 crores upto June, 1997;

(b) About 30% upto June, 1997;

(c) December, 1999.

Guidelines for construction of houses under Indira Awas Yojana

*113. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to alter the terms of finances of the Indira Awas Yojana;

(b) if so, whether such changes have been effected;

(c) whether any new guidelines have been issued for the technology to be used for construction of houses under the Yojana; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. YERANNAIDU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of (a) above, question does not arise.

(c) and (d) As per Indira Awas Yojana guidelines and instructions issued from time to time, efforts should be made to utilise to the maximum extent local materials, cost effective techniques and low cost technologies developed by various institutions.

Violation of Indian Air-space

*114. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistani Air Force planes have of late been violating Indian air-space more frequently;

(b) the details of such air-violations during the last six months and the comparative figures and details for the preceding two spells of six months each; and

(c) Government's reaction to the frequent air-violations by Pak Air Force aircrats?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) The details of such air violations indicate that there were 2 incidents of violations of Indian air-space by aircraft identified as those from Pakistan between 1st January to 30th June, 1997 as against 5 & 4 for the preceding two spells of six months each respectively.

(c) All the cases of air violations are taken-up appropriately, with the Government of Pakistan through diplomatic channels.

Officials Secrets Act

*115. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state whether the United Front Government have set-up a panel to submit a series of recommendations which are expected to make the Official Secrets Act less restrictive and Government functioning more transparent?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): A Working Group on "Right to Information and Promotion of Open and Transparent Government" was set-up by the Central Government under the Chairmanship of Shri H.D. Shourie, Chairman Common Cause. The Group which submitted its report in May, 1997, has

among other things recommended enactment of a Law on Freedom of Information, and Amendment to Section 5 of Official Secrets Act, 1923 in order to remove its omnibus character.

Air Crashes involving IAF trainee pilots

*116. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the number of air crashes involving trainee Indian Air Force pilots has increased; if so, the number of such crashes occurred during last five years indicating the number of casualties thereon;

(b) what is the cost involved in training an Indian pilot and the details of facilities including insurance cover at present available;

(c) when were such facilities revised last; and

(d) what are the reasons for non-payment of compensation to the kith and kin of a pilot died in August, 1996 as reported in the Hindustan Times, dated the 7th July, 1997, and by when the same would be paid?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Details of cost of training and also the facilities available to the trainee pilots as currently prevalent in 1997 are given in the statement laid on the Table of the House. (*See* below).

(d) Except ex-gratia award of Rs. 375/- per month, the dealth benefits have been sanctioned to the next-of-kin of the deceased cadet (Flt Ctd Sunil Kumar). Monthly ex-gratia award will be sanctioned on receipt of requisite dependency documents from the father of the deceased cadet.

Statement

Details of cost of training and facilities to trainee pilots

The training cost per pilot at 1997-98 level for each of the substreams is as given below:—

(i) Fighter Stream	Rs. 5.68 crores
(ii) Transport Stream	Rs. 2.48 crores
(iii) Helicopter Stream	Rs. 1.65 crores

2. Pilot trainees of the IAF are made members of the Air Force Group Insurance Scheme (AFGIS) from the date of joining the Training institute and effective from 1.5.1997 are provided with life insurance cover of Rs. 10 lakhs with monthly contribution of Rs. 800/- and Rs. 560/- for aircrew and ground duty branches, respectively.

3. In addition the following ex-gratia awards are authorised by the Government.

(a) Lumpsum ex-gratia award of Rs. 45,000/-

(b) Ex-gratia award on monthly basis @ Rs. 375/- per month (excluding Dearness relief and Interim relief which is paid separately thereon).

Setting up of a Technology Mission for Cotton Development

*117. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to set up a technology mission for cotton development in the country to improve cotton production, marketing, processing etc;

(b) whether such a mission is proposed to be set up in Gujarat which is the largest cotton growing State in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?